

Message Text

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SUBJ: 27TH WHA AND 54TH EXECUTIVE BOARD: AN ASSESSMENT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RESTROSPECT, IT IS THE VIEW OF MISSION OFFICERS PARTICIPATING AS ADVISERS TO US DEL TO SUBJECT MEETINGS THAT OUTCOME OF BOTH WAS GENERALY SATISFACTORY FROM VIEWPOINT US INTERESTS. ALTHOUGH THE ASSEMBLY WAS FACED WITH SEVERAL MATTERS OF A POLITICAL NATURE (E.G. THE ADMISSION OF GUINEA-BISSAU, AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO MIDDLE EAST REFUGEES), THE DISCUSSION OF SUCH POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL AND EMOTIONAL ISSUES WAS RESTRAINED. EXISTENCE OF AFRO-ARAB AND/OR LDG BLOC VOTING POWER TENDED TO ENCOURAGE DECISIONS ON POLITICAL ISSUES BY ACCLAMATION RATHER THAN BY VOTE. THE KEYNOTE SEEMED TO BE ONE OF INCREASINGLY BETTER RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MEMBERS AND A DESIRE TO GET ON WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY.

2. QUESTION OF NEW DG: PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPRESSION GAINED WAS THAT OF THE PROFOUND AND BENEFICIAL IMPACT THAT THE NEW

DIRECTOR GENERAL, DR. MAHLER, IS HAVING UPON THE ORGANIZATION AND ITS PROGRAM AND THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THIS ON THE MEMBERSHIP.

THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF A HEIGHTENED INTEREST AND

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PARTICIPATION, AND A MORE FORTHCOMING SUPPORT.

3. PROGRAM-BUDGET: THE NEW BUDGET PRESENTATION ON A PROGRAM BUDGET BASIS WAS FAVORABLY RECEIVED AND WAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE REVIEW. THE SEVERAL EXTRA NIGHT SESSIONS OF COMMITTEE A TO ACCOMMODATE THE DISCUSSION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM ARE EVIDENCE OF THIS.

4. DURATION OF ASSEMBLY: ALTHOUGH IT REQUIRED SEVERAL EVENING SESSIONS AND ONE SATURDAY MORNING SESSION, THE ASSEMBLY DID COMPLETE ITS WORK NEARLY TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE OF SCHEDULE, A FACT WHICH MAY FACILITATE A REDUCTION IN THE SCHEDULED DURATION OF FUTURE ASSEMBLIES. SUCH REDUCTION WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY RAISED AT THE ASSEMBLY, BUT THE DG WILL UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS END AND REPORT TO THE 55TH EB.

5. SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS: THE NEW SCALE OF ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDED BY THE DG AND SUPPORTED BY THE US WAS APPROVED BY THE WHA DESPITE A LAST MINUTE BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT BY THE NETHERLANDS AND THE USSR FOR ITS RECONSIDERATION. UNDER THIS SCALE, AND AS THE RESULT OF THE ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE BAHAMAS, GUINEA-BISSAU AND NAMIBIA (ASSOCIATE MEMBER), THE US CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 29.19 C/O FOR 1974 TO 25.64 C/O FOR 1975.

6. APPROVAL OF 1975 BUDGET: THE 1975 EFFECTIVE WORKING BUDGET WAS APPROVED WITH US SUPPORT AT A LEVEL OF \$115,240,000, AN INCREASE OF SLIGHTLY UNDER 6 C/O OVER THE 1974 LEVEL, AND REPRESENTS VIRTUALLY A "NO-PROGRAM" INCREASE" BUDGET WHEN ONE TAKES INTO ACCOUNT INFLATIONARY INFLUENCES IN SWITZERLAND AND ELSEWHERE.

7. ELECTION TO EXECUTIVE BOARD: ALTHOUGH ALL NEW MEMBERS ELECTED REPRESENTED THE CHOICE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONAL GROUPS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE MEMBER, CANADA, REFUSED TO WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDACY EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT ONE OF THE COUNTRIES NOMINATED BY THE CAUCUS OF AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THIS IS EVIDENCE OF THE GROWING PRESSURE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF THE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO THIS EFFECT AWAITING RATIFICATION. ONE EFFECT OF THIS PRESSURE, IF ENLARGEMENT IS LONG DELAYED

OR DENIED, MAY BE TO WEAKEN THE "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT"
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WHEREBY US, UK, FRANCE, USSR AND PRC ARE MORE OR LESS AUTOMATICALLY RE-ELECTED TO THE BOARD AFTER ONE YEAR'S ABSENCE THEREFROM.

8. HEADQUARTERS ACCOMMODATION AND REAL ESTATE FUND: IN TWO RELATED DECISIONS THE ASSEMBLY AGREED TO PUT OFF UNTIL THE TWENTY-EIGHTH ASSEMBLY ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OFFICE ACCOMMODATION IN GENEVA AND AGREED TO TRANSFER

TO THE REAL ESTATE FUND ONLY SUCH FUNDS IN THE CASUAL INCOME ACCOUNT NEEDED FOR APPROVED PROJECTS. THE BALANCE IN CASUAL INCOME, SOME \$500,000, WILL REMAIN IN THE ASSEMBLY SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

9. FINANCING BUDGET IN OTHER THAN US CURRENCY: THE ASSEMBLY AGREED DEFER CONSIDERATION OF ANY DECISION RE USE OF CURRENCIES OTHER THAN US DOLLAR PENDING CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER IN THE UNGENERAL ASSEMBLY.

10. WHO MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM: US WAS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING UNANIMOUS APPROVAL FOR OUR RESOLUTION CALLING ON DG TO STRENGTHEN THE WHO INFORMATION SYSTEM SUPPORTING PROGRAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING COMMON CONCEPTS OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION IN THE UN FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS.

11. METHODS OF WORK OF EXECUTIVE BOARD: THE ASSEMBLY DECIDED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHOULD ASSUME THE FUNCTIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, AND THE BOARD AT ITS POST-ASSEMBLY SESSION DECIDED, IN TURN, THAT IT WILL MAKE USE OF WORKING GROUPS OR OTHER AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS AS NEEDED TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

12. USE OF ARABIC AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: DESPITE ATTEMPTS ON PART OF UK AND US TO HAVE QUESTION OF USE OF ARABIC AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF FUTURE HEALTH ASSEMBLIES POSTPONED, THIS PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED. IT WILL RESULT IN AN ADDITIONAL COST OF ONLY \$3,200 PER ANNUM ACCORDING TO A/DG FURTH.

13. SMALLPOX: THE ASSEMBLY WAS ENCOURAGED BY RESULTS IN THE PROGRAM FOR GLOBAL SMALL POX ERADICATION AND BY THE SUPPORT GIVEN

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TO THE PROGRAM
BY DONOR GOVERNMENTS.

14. EXPANDED VACCINATION PROGRAM: MEMBER STATES WERE RECOMMENDED TO CARRY OUT CONTINUING PROGRAMS OF VACCINATION AGAINST SPECIFIED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS A BASIC HEALTH SERVICE.

15. HEALTH EDUCATION: SPECIAL ATTENTION WAS GIVEN THIS SUBJECT AND THE ORGANIZATION WAS ASKED TO INTENSIFY ITS HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT TO MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL.

16. ROLE OF WHO IN HEALTH
AID PROGRAMS: SPOKESMEN FOR BOTH

DONOR ANDRECIPIENT COUNTRIES WERE ALL AGREED IN MAKING USE OF WHO AS ADVISOR AND COORDINTOR FOR BOTH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AID PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH.

17. WORLD POPULATION YEAR CONFERENCE: A RESOLUTION ON THIS "WELCOMES THE EMPHASIS GIVEN TO HEALTH AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF

THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE DRAFT WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION"TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE CONFERENCE, AND POINTS OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS IN NATIONAL DELEGATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE.

18. PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS: THE PRINCIPLE WAS ADOPTED THAT ALL COSTS FOR PROGRAMS FINANCIED BY EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS, INCLUDING OVERHEAD COSTS,SHOULD BE FINANCED FROM SUCH FUNDS, AND THE DG WAS ASKED TO PURSUE THE MATTER VIA ACC AND ECOSOC.

19. ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS: ADMITTED GUINEA-BISSAU AS A NEW MEMBER BY VOTE OF 92-1 (US) - 31 ABSTENTIONS, AND NAMIBIA AS ASSOCIATE MEMBER BY ACCLAMATION.

20. ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS: AS A RESULT OF ASSEMBLY ACTION, WHO WILL WIDEN THE SCOPE OF ITS ASSISTANCE TO LIBERATED PEOPLES IN AFRICA IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) AND THROUGH NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (NLM). REPRESENTATIVES OF NLM RECOGNIZED UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE OAU AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES ARE NOW PERMITTED ATTEND WHO MEETINGS AS OBSERVERS.

21. HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN MID-EAST: WHO'S ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA IS TO BE INTENSIFIED AND INCREASED. SECTION B OF THIS RESOLUTION CALLED AGAIN ON ISRAEL TO PERMIT "SPECIAL COMMITTEE" INVESTIAGE HEALTH PROSPECT UNLESS ISRAELI POLICY FORBIDDING ENTRY OF NATIONALS OF STATES WITH WHICH IT HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS CHANGED.

22. BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH: THE ASSEMBLY CALLED FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE WHO RESEARCH PROGRAM, POINTING OUT THE GAINS TO BE MADE B BIOMEDIAL RESERACH FOR SOLVING HEALTH PROBLEMS IN BOTH RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES.

23. DROUGHT IN AFRICA: WHO WAS ASKED TO DRAW ATTENTION TOALL COUNTRIES TO THE DETERIORATING HEALTH SITUATION IN THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

24. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIONIN CANCER RESEARCH: THE

ASSEMBLY MADE PROGRESS IN DEFINING THE WORK TO BE DONE BY WHO IN THIS FIELD, BUT THE SYSTEM FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN WHO PER SE, ITS INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH IN CANCER, AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST CANCER, REMAINS TO BE DEVELOPED.

25. STANDARDIZATION OF DIAGNOSTIC MATERIALS: APPROVAL WAS GIVEN TO EMBARK UPON THIS PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AND QUALITY CONTROL OF DIAGNOSTIC MATERIALS. THE US HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY INFLUENTIAL IN THIS PROGRAM INITIATIVE.

26. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WHO'S LONG-TERM PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WERE RECEIVED AND THE ASSEMBLY STRESSED A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT IN BASIC SANITATION, QUALITY OF AIR, WATER AND FOOD, CONDITIONS OF WORK, HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING. DALE

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